

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): In an image forming system comprising a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said plurality of image forming apparatuses each comprising:

- reading means for reading a document;
- printing means for printing an image read by said reading means;
- joint operation means for transferring the image read by said reading means to another image forming apparatus and causing said another image forming apparatus to print said image;
- joint copy mode selecting means for commanding said joint operation means to execute a joint copy mode operation;
- registering means for allowing an operator to register a user stamp to be combined with the image read by said reading means in the event of printing;
- combining means for combining the user stamp and the image read by said reading means; and
- decision means for determining whether or not the user stamp is registered at the another image forming apparatus to which said joint operation means has transferred the image;

wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected and if the user stamp is registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision means, said joint operation means executes the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 2 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image

forming apparatus, as determined by said decision means, said joint copy mode selecting means determines whether or not to execute the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 3 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision means, said joint operation means transfers the user stamp to the another image forming apparatus and then executes the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 4 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision means, said joint copy mode selecting means determines whether or not to execute the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 5 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the another image forming apparatus deletes the user stamp transferred thereto on completing the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 6 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision means, said joint copy mode selecting means determines whether or not to execute the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 7 (Original) In an image forming system comprising a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said plurality of image forming apparatuses each comprising:

a reading device for reading a document;

a printing device for printing an image read by said reading device;

a joint operation device for transferring the image read by said reading device to another image forming apparatus and causing said another image forming apparatus to print said image;

a joint copy mode selecting device for commanding said joint operation device to execute a joint copy mode operation;

a registering device for allowing an operator to register a user stamp to be combined with the image read by said reading device in the event of printing;

a combining device for combining the user stamp and the image read by said reading device; and

a decision device for determining whether or not the user stamp is registered at the another image forming apparatus to which said joint operation device has transferred the image;

wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected and if the user stamp is registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision device, said joint operation device executes the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 8 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision device, said joint copy mode selecting device determines whether or not to execute the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 9 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image

forming apparatus, as determined by said decision device, said joint operation device transfers the user stamp to the another image forming apparatus and then executes the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 10 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision device, said joint copy mode selecting device determines whether or not to execute the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 11 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the another image forming apparatus deletes the user stamp transferred thereto on completing the joint copy mode operation.

Claim 12 (Original) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein when the joint copy mode operation is selected, but if the user stamp is not registered at the another image forming apparatus, as determined by said decision device, said joint copy mode selecting device determines whether or not to execute the joint copy mode operation.